

Foot Marks of LIS Journals in DOAJ: an Analytical Study**Ramesh Kuri,**Assistant Professor, Dept of Library and Information Science,
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Abstract: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a service that provides access to quality controlled Open Access Journals. The aim of the Directory is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. The DOAJ which lists the open access scientific and scholarly journals in various subject disciplines was selected to analyze the open access availability of the Library and Information Science discipline. In the study it is found that 150 open access e-journals are published in the area of Library and Information Science discipline by various publishers of the world. These 150 Library and Information Science e-journals have been analyzed based on the LIS journals in social science discipline, country of journal published, language of journal published, and year of journal addition to the DOAJ.

Keywords: Open Access, E-journals, DOAJ, Library and Information Science, Directory, Social science

1. Introduction:

Knowledge is increasingly important for the development of the individual and society in an ever more globalised world. In the digital age that has opened up unprecedented opportunities for the dissemination of scientific knowledge. Sharing this knowledge efficiently is crucial for the future of academic and other research community. (*Ramjoué, Celina -2008*)

Today open access online journals are in vogue which are very valuable source of information and also add very valuable supplement to scientific knowledge. Open access journals can be accessible free of cost. We can download the articles and use for academic purpose without any charge. DOAJ provides the platform for accessing the open access journals. (**Ramdas Lihitkar and Shalini R. Lihitkar**)

The World Wide Web has provided the means for researchers to make their research results available to anyone, anywhere, at any time. This applies to journal articles regardless of whether or not their library has a subscription to the journal in which the articles were published as well. Researchers publish their results to establish their own claim to the research and to enable other researchers to build upon them. (*Alam, Swan - 2005*)

Today open access online journals are in vogue which are very valuable source of information and also add very valuable supplement to scientific knowledge. Open access journals can be accessible free of cost. We can download the articles and use for academic purpose without any charge. DOAJ provides the platform for accessing

the open access journals. (**Ramdas Lihitkar and Shalini R. Lihitkar**) Open Access (OA) is a term widely used to refer to unrestricted online access to articles published in scholarly journals. It is free access to knowledge at no charge to the user. It is simply a means to make research results freely available online to the whole research community. (*Urs, Shalini -2006*). There are various misunderstandings about Open Access. It is not self-publishing, nor a way to bypass peer-review and publication, nor is it a kind of second-class, cut-price publishing route. Alam, Swan. (2005) Open access is an ongoing movement with many advocates and proponents unflatteringly championing the cause. (*Urs, Shalini -2006*).

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is one of such service project that provides access to quality controlled Open Access Journals. The Directory aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use an appropriate quality control system, and it will not be limited to particular languages or subject areas. The aim of the Directory is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact.

This form of Open Access means that research has much more impact than before. Moreover, the research cycle – where work is published, read, cited and then built upon by other researchers – is enhanced and accelerated when results are available on an Open Access basis. Therefore this study has taken to measure quantitatively the value of journals document through growth and structure of literature of Library and Information Science subject. Furthermore, it is also a technique that gives

potentially valuable information to the poor management academic institutions in making use of open access journals.

2. Nature and Scope

The DOAJ: A Directory of Open Access Journals is selected to analyze the structure and different contents, because this open access directory has grown in status and set its own standards in different professional journalism. It is an International directory completely dedicated to the field of various subjects.

Recent developments in the market for journals have led to dissatisfaction among some scholars and librarians with this business model involving such high subscriber fees. The advent of the Internet offers the prospect of nearly zero marginal cost distribution of journals in electronic form, potentially much lower than the traditional method of mailing print copies. Yet while technological advances might be expected to result in lower journal prices, real journal prices in fact have risen substantially over the past decade. (McCabe, Mark -2006)

3. Need for the study

1. This study can help the librarians to select the most useful open access journals;
2. It helps to point out the way to enhance usage and contribution of published journals;
3. It is also used to study the growth and structure of directory of open access journal;
4. It can bring awareness in using to LIS journals available for free access over web;
5. This study apparently to enhance academic library services by the librarian to serve the needs of the library user.

4. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study deals with "DOAJ" A Directory of Open Access journals are as follows:

1. To know the structure and content of DOAJ
2. To identify the number of LIS journals available in the DOAJ
3. To identify language wise distribution of journals to the DOAJ
4. To know year wise registration to the DOAJ
5. To know country wise distribution of journals

5. Limitation

The present study is only limited to open access journals which are listed in DOAJ directory, specifically Library and Information Science are considered and others are excluded for this analytical study.

6. Methodology

For this study data has collected from the open access directory (DOAJ) website named www.doaj.org. Each and every journal of Library and Information Science published in the DOAJ directory during 2002 to 2013 was examined. It was interesting to analyze the journals of such a leading Directory in the different fields so as to know the structure and contentment of DOAJ, ranking of geographical contribution, types of journals, language of publication, and year of journal addition during the study period. At the end data accessed has analyzed through the MS office software called Excel and analyzed data has represented in the form of tables and graphs.

6. Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a service that provides access to quality controlled Open Access Journals. *Lars Bjornshauge* was Director of Libraries at Lund University from 2001 to 2011 and founded the DOAJ in 2003. He became Managing Editor of DOAJ in January 2013. Directory of Open Access Journals is hosted, maintained and partly funded by Lund University Libraries Head Office, Sweden. The Directory aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use an appropriate quality control system, and it will not be limited to particular languages or subject areas. The selection criteria for this service are;

❖ Coverage:

- Subject: all scientific and scholarly subjects are covered
- Types of resource: scientific and scholarly periodicals that publish research or review papers in full text.
- Acceptable sources: academic, government, commercial, non-profit private sources are all acceptable.
- Level: the target group for included journals should be primarily researchers.
- Content: a substantive part of the journal should consist of research papers. All content should be available in full text.
- All languages

❖ Access:

- All content freely available.
- Registration: Free user registration online is acceptable.
- Open Access without delay.

❖ **Quality:**

Quality control: for a journal to be included it should exercise quality control on submitted papers through an editor, editorial board and/or a peer-review system.

❖ **Periodical:**

The journal should have an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)

In DOAJ more than 10 percent of the world's peer-reviewed journals are now included for making DOAJ among the world's largest collections of peer-reviewed scholarly journals, period. There are more peer-reviewed journals in DOAJ than Science Direct; more non embargoed,

peer-reviewed journals in DOAJ than in EBSCO's Academic Search Premiere or Gale's OneFile. (Morrison, Heather -2007)

The DOAJ home page provides an overview of the DOAJ service, an up-to-date count of journals listed in DOAJ, how many journals can be searched at the article level through DOAJ, and how many articles can be retrieved through such a search. DOAJ is currently used primarily by libraries and serials support services and connecting people with Open Access information through link resolving services. The DOAJ Find Journals page is the primary search screen for DOAJ, and it illustrates the beautiful, clean lines and layout that make DOAJ so easy to understand and to use. The below Fig-1 shows the home page look of the DOAJ directory.

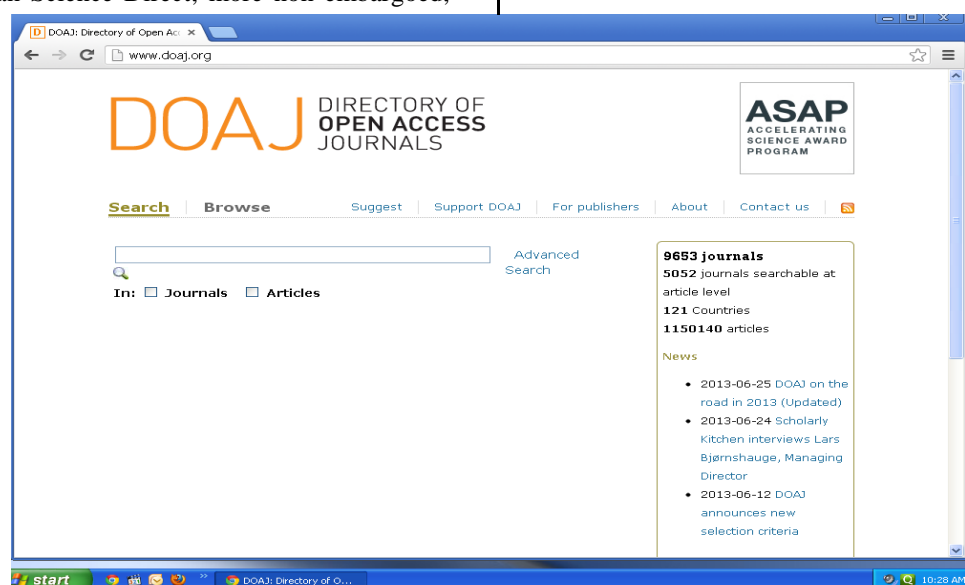


Fig-1: Home page of DOAJ

Subject disciplines covered in DOAJ

The directory of Open Access Journals covered 9653 (as on 10th July 2013) e-journals on 18 subject disciplines. The below table represent discipline wise number of e-journals included in the DOAJ.

Sl. No	Subject Disciplines	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
1	Agriculture and Food Sciences	854	8.84
2	Arts and Architecture	261	2.70
3	Biology and Life Sciences	320	3.31
4	Business and Economics	588	6.91
5	Chemistry	192	1.98
6	Earth and	657	6.80

Sl. No	Subject Disciplines	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
	Environmental Sciences		
7	General Works	409	4.23
8	Health Sciences	1004	10.40
9	History and Archaeology	316	3.27
10	Languages and Literatures	594	6.15
11	Law and Political Science	399	4.13
12	Mathematics and Statistics	323	3.34
13	Naval Science	001	1.03
14	Philosophy and Religion	314	3.25

Sl. No	Subject Disciplines	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
15	Physics and Astronomy	117	12.12
16	Science General	162	1.67
17	Social Sciences	1937	20.06
18	Technology and Engineering	1205	12.48
Total		9653	

Table-1: Discipline-wise Availability of E-Journal

7. LIS Journals in DOAJ:

Library and Information Science is a profession in creating leading professional industry in producing its students with the designations of librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers etc. Library and Information and science is a growing in many dimensions and the usefulness. Journals are very much necessity for every LIS professional to update themselves, accumulate and disseminate the information. An increasing number of e-journals are now available

as open access journals, requiring no subscription and offering free full-text articles and reviews to all.

8.1 LIS Journals in Social Science Discipline

Sl. No	Discipline	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
1	Anthropology	103	5.32
2	Education	649	33.50
3	Ethnology	36	1.85
4	Gender Studies	41	2.12
5	Library and Information Science	150	7.74
6	Media and communication	127	6.56
7	Psychology	210	10.85
8	Social Sciences	374	19.30
9	Sociology	167	8.62
10	Sports Science	80	4.14
Total		1937	

Table-2: Contribution of LIS journals in the social science journals

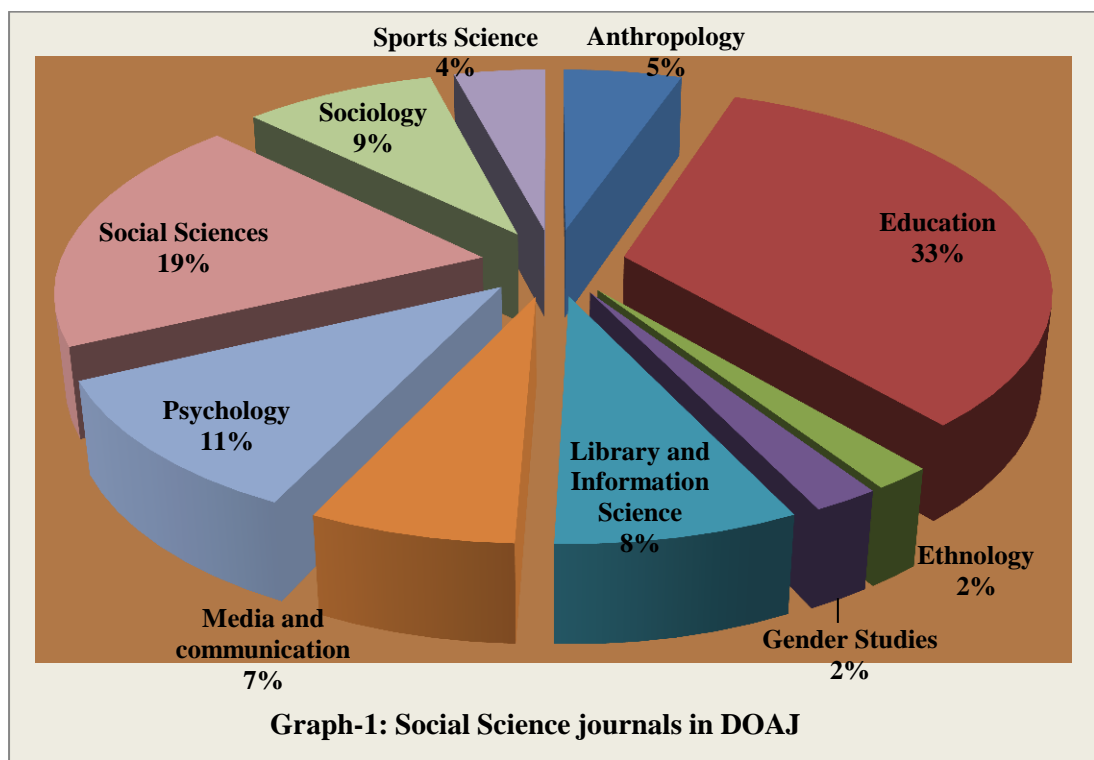


Table-2 shows the social science discipline journals in DOAJ from 2002 to till date. There were total 1937 social science discipline journals added, among them Library and Information Science has shared 150 (7.74%) journals.

8.2 County wise distribution of LIS-Journals

Sl. No.	Country	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
1	Argentina	1	0.66
2	Australia	2	1.33
3	Brazil	16	10.66
4	Bulgaria	1	0.66
5	Canada	7	4.66
6	Chile	1	0.66
7	Colombia	1	0.66
8	Costa Rica	1	0.66
9	Croatia	3	2.00
10	Cuba	2	1.33
11	Czech Republic	1	0.66
12	Denmark	2	1.33
13	Egypt	1	0.66
14	France	3	2.00
15	Germany	7	4.66
16	India	6	4.32
17	Indonesia	1	0.66
18	Iran	3	2.00
19	Italy	3	2.00
20	Lithuania	2	1.33
21	Mexico	1	0.66
22	Netherlands	3	2.00
23	New Zealand	1	0.66
24	Pakistan	1	0.66
25	Peru	1	0.66
26	Poland	3	2.00
27	Puerto Rico	1	0.66
28	Romania	2	1.33
29	Singapore	1	0.66
30	Slovenia	1	0.66

Sl. No.	Country	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
31	South Africa	3	2.00
32	Spain	11	7.33
33	Sweden	2	1.33
34	Switzerland	2	1.33
35	Taiwan	6	4.32
36	Turkey	2	1.33
37	UK	7	4.66
38	United States	37	24.66
39	Venezuela	1	0.66
Total		150	

Table-3: Country wise distribution of LIS Journals

Table-3 shows country wise distribution of LIS journals in DOAJ. Total 150 Library and Information Science journals were identified from 39 countries in DOAJ. Majority 37 (24.66) journals have contributed from the United states followed by Brazil 16 (), Spain 11() and so on. It indicates that these countries are showing much interest in sharing their journals because to enhance the usage of their journals.

8.3 Top Five Countries standing towards rank in contributing LIS Journals:

Sl. No.	Country	No. of e-Journals	Rank
1	United States	37	1
2	Brazil	16	2
3	Spain	11	3
4	Canada, Germany, UK	7	4
5	India, Taiwan	6	5

Table-4: Top Five Ranking of Countries

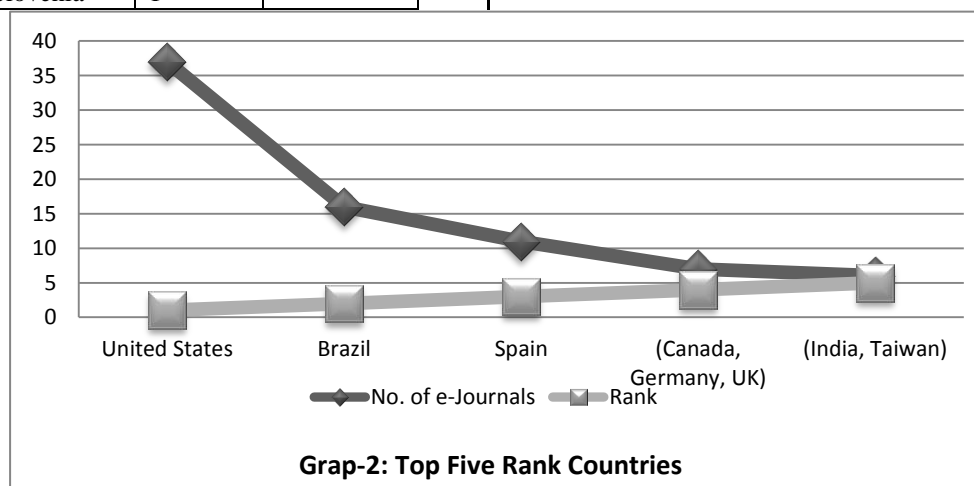


Table-4 shows the top five ranking of countries according to the highest number of publications. From the table it can be noted that highest number of open access e-journals are from USA with the total of 37 journals publications, Brazil stands the second place by publishing 16 journals, Spain is in third place by publishing 11 journals and India takes the fifth place by publishing 6 open access e-journals.

8.4 Year wise growth of LIS journals in DOAJ

Sl. No.	Year	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
1	2003	19	12.66
2	2004	10	6.66
3	2005	16	10.68
4	2006	19	12.68
5	2007	09	6.00
6	2008	10	6.68
7	2009	06	4.00
8	2010	18	12.00
9	2011	14	9.36
10	2012	13	8.68
11	2013	16	10.68
Total		150	

Table-5: Year-wise Addition of E-Journals

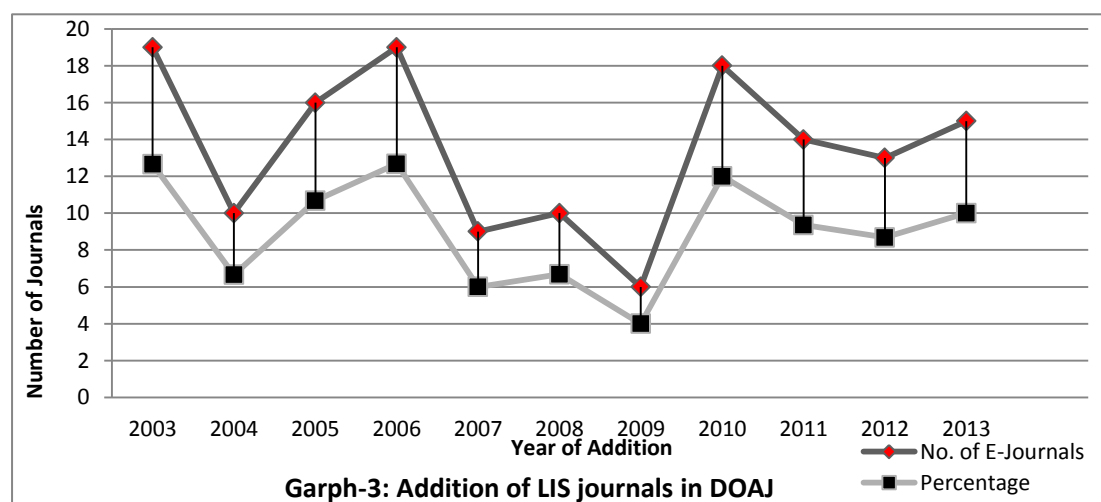


Table-5 represents the year-wise addition of open access e-journals of Library and Information Science. Majority 19 each journal added to DOAJ in 2003 and 2006. Followed to this 18 journals in 2010; 16 each added in 2005 and 2013; 14 journals in 2011, 13 journals in 2012 10 each added in 2004 and 2008; 9 in 2007 and only six journals have added in 2009.

8.5 Language wise distribution of LIS-Journals in DOAJ

Sl. No	Language	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
1	Bulgarian	1	0.66
2	English	72	48.00
3	Farsi	1	0.66

Sl. No	Language	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
4	French	3	2.00
5	German	4	2.66
6	Indonesian	1	0.66
7	Italian	1	0.66
8	Persian	1	0.66
9	Polish	3	2.00
10	Portuguese	7	4.66
11	Slovene	1	0.66
12	Spanish	8	5.33
13	In Two Languages	31	20.66
14	In Three Languages	12	8.00

Sl. No	Language	No. of E-Journals	Percentage
15	In Four Languages	2	1.33
16	In Five Languages	2	1.33
Total		150	

Table-6: Language-wise distribution of LIS-Journals

Table-7 depicts the language-wise distribution of open access journals. From the table it can be noted that 72 journals are published in English Language, 8 journals in Spanish, 7 journals in Portuguese, 31 journals are published in two languages, 12 journals published in three languages, 2 journals in four languages (Swedish, English, Norwegian, Danish & French, German, English, Italian) and 2 journals published in five languages (English, German, Spanish, Portuguese, French & Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian).

9. Findings and Conclusion

From the study it is found that most of the open access e-journals are from USA, and it stands

top place by publishing 72 journals. After Brazil (16 journals), Spain (11 journals), India stands fifth place in contributing 6 open access e-journals in to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The discipline called 'Social Science' has showed much importance in contributing maximum journals in to the DOAJ directory. It is found that the addition of the journals in to the DOAJ is steadily increasing from 2003 to 2011. At the end it is also come to know that English is the most commonly used communication language. Hence maximum Library and Information Science journals are in English which is used by e-journals out of 150. It is also observed that Library and Information Science e-journals are interdisciplinary in nature.

The Directory of Open Access Journals is a significant resource. DOAJ has developed a well-deserved reputation for quality, and is the world's most authoritative list of fully Open Access, peer-reviewed titles. DOAJ is growing dramatically; it is growing at a rate of more than one title a day. The size of the title list in DOAJ is very impressive, and compares favorably with commercial options.

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